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February 6, 2007

Ms. Tracie Billington
Division of Planning and Local Assistance
Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236

Ms. Shahla Farahnak
Division of Financial Assistance
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812

Dear Ms. Billington and Ms. Farahnak:

Subject: Proposition 50, Chapter 8 Grant Proposals – ACWD Comments on Additional Grant Awards

ACWD supports the recent proposal from the State to fund additional proposals submitted for State funding under Chapter 8 of Proposition 50.

Alameda County Water District (ACWD) is a water retailer providing potable water to a population of over 330,000 in southern Alameda County. In addition, we also manage the underlying Niles Cone Groundwater Basin, one of the most productive groundwater basins in the San Francisco Bay Area.

ACWD has worked with numerous other water management agencies and stakeholders in the San Francisco Bay Area to develop the Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (Bay Area IRWMP). Given the diverse nature of the Bay Area's water supplies, its water management challenges, and the number of water management agencies and other stakeholders, this effort represents a milestone in California water management planning.

As you know, Bay Area agencies have also cooperated to develop and submit a Step 2 proposal for Proposition 50, Chapter 8 grant funding to implement fifteen of the priority water management projects identified in the Bay Area IRWMP. Funding for these Bay Area projects will provide much needed water management and environmental benefits, and will facilitate the continued regional partnership and cooperation developed in the Bay Area during the IRWMP process.

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Therefore, we strongly encourage the State to fund the Bay Area proposal. Given the scope of the Bay Area proposal and its water supply, water quality and environmental benefits, together with the commitment for local cost-sharing, we also encourage the State to allocate a larger share of available funds for this regional effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Piraino", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paul Piraino
General Manager

ec/ghm